

ghosts can need in the other world, are despatched to them in like manner in the flames. Then the family sits down to table and feasts on the remains of the ghostly banquet.¹

But in Annam it is not merely the spirits of ancestors who are thus feasted and supplied with all the necessities of life. The poor ghosts of those who died without leaving descendants or whose bodies were left unburied are not forgotten by the pious Annamites. But these spirits come round at a different time of year from the others. The seventh month of the year is set apart for expiatory sacrifices destined to benefit these unhappy beings, and that is why in Annam nobody should marry or be betrothed in that month. The great day of the month is the fifteenth, which is called the Festival of the Souls. On that day the ghosts in question are set free by the lord of the underworld, and they come prowling about among the living. They are exceedingly dangerous, especially to children. Hence in order to appease their wrath and prevent them from entering the houses every family takes care to put out offerings for them in the street. Before every house on that night you may see candles lighted, paper garments of many colours, paper hats, paper boots, paper furniture, ingots of gold and silver paper, all hanging in tempting array from a string, while plates of food and cups of tea and rice-spirit stand ready for the use of hungry and thirsty souls. The theory is that the ghosts will be so busy consuming the victuals, appropriating the deceitful riches, and trying on the paper

coats, hats, and boots that they will have
neither the leisure
nor the inclination to intrude upon the
domestic circle
indoors. At seven o'clock in the evening
fire is put to the
offerings, and the paper wardrobe,
furniture, and money soon
vanish crackling in the flames. At the
same moment,
peeping in at a door or window, you may
see the domestic
ancestral altar brilliantly illuminated. As
for the food, it is
supposed to be thrown on the fire or on
the ground for the

¹ Le R. P. Cadiere, "Coutumes Annam," etc., *Bulletins de la Société de la Vallée du Nguon-So'n*, *\$ Anthropologie d& Paris*, V^e Sérif, iv. *Bulletin de l'Ecole Française \$ Extrême*-(1903) pp. 500-502; E! Diquet, '.,.'? *Orient*, 11. (Hanoi, 1902) pp. 376-379; *Annamites* (Paris, 1906), pp. 372-375. P. d'Enjoy, "Du droit successoral en